

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A receiving apparatus for receiving a digital broadcast which comprises a transport stream in which video data and audio data have been compressed and multiplexed, comprising:

a decoder for decoding the transport stream;

a digital interface for mutually transmitting the decoded transport stream to and receiving the decoded transport stream from digital signal processing devices; and

a register for selecting a predetermined number of devices from among a plurality of digital signal processing devices connected to said digital interface and for allocating node identification numbers to said selected devices, for each of said selected devices, said register storing a record of said node identification number allocated to said selected device and maintaining said record regardless of whether said selected device remains connected to said digital interface.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said register confirms whether a device connected to said digital interface has already been allocated a node identification number when said device is connected to said digital interface.

4. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said register automatically allocates said node identification numbers to said predetermined number of devices which were first connected to said digital interface from among said plurality of digital signal processing devices connected to said digital interface.

5. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said records stored in said register may be changed by user input.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when said node identification numbers have previously been allocated to said predetermined number of devices, said register prohibits cancellation of said records stored in said register.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display processing circuit for displaying a list of said selected devices.

8. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said display processing circuit is operable to visually discriminate between devices connected to said digital interface and devices not connected to said digital interface from among said selected devices.

9. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein, when an operation is performed to change said record of a device in which a program recording reservation has been set, said display processing circuit generates a predetermined warning display.

10. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising display means for displaying a selection screen to select a device from among said selected devices.

11. (currently amended) A method of recognizing a

plurality of digital signal processing devices connected to a digital broadcast receiving apparatus through a digital interface, comprising:

selecting a predetermined number of devices from among the plurality of digital signal processing devices connected to the digital interface; and

registering said selected devices,

said registering step including allocating an node identification number to each of said selected devices and, for each of said selected devices, storing a record of said node identification number for said selected device regardless of whether said selected device has been connected to the digital interface.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said registering step further includes confirming whether a device connected to the digital interface has already been associated with an node identification number.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said registering step further includes automatically allocating said node identification numbers to said predetermined number of devices which were first connected to the digital interface from among the plurality of devices connected to the digital interface.

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein said registering step further includes determining the node identification number allocated to said selected device based on a user input.

16. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein said registering step further includes prohibiting cancellation of said stored records.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising displaying a list of said selected devices.

18. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said displaying step includes displaying the list of said selected devices so as to visually discriminate between devices connected to the digital interface and devices not connected to the digital interface.

19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 17, wherein said displaying step further includes generating a predetermined warning display when a change is made to said record of a device in which a program recording reservation has been set or an identification number has been allocated.

20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising displaying a selection screen that allows selection of devices from among said selected devices.